FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 DECEMBER 1984

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Implementing its siege on Khark Island, Iraqi planes scored direct hits on two maritime targets on 15 December, according to an Armed Forces communique broadcast on Baghdad radio. In a related report, the radio added that Lloyd's of London confirmed that the Greek tanker *Ninemia* had sent SOS calls and was burning south of Khark Island a few hours after being hit by an Iraqi missile. Maritime sources in Manama conjectured that the second tanker may have been Iranian, since Iranian ships do not normally send SOS messages when hit, the radio added. The *Ninemia was attacked well outside the maritime exclusion zone* set up by Iraq, AFP disclosed, adding that two seamen were missing from the ship.

On 16 December, minutes after Bahraini salvage crews towing the *Ninemia* toward Dubayy had brought the ship's fires under control, Iraqi jets attacked again, scoring with another missile, *GULF DAILY NEWS reported. The Iraqi Armed Forces com*munique broadcast on Baghdad radio claimed that successful strikes were carried out on 16 December on a "very large maritime target" south of Khark Island and on another, smaller one, which was destroyed.

Lebanon

UNIFIL and the South — Lebanese military officials have suggested to the Cabinet that Lebanon give conditional approval to UNIFIL's deployment north of the Al-Litani River, according to diplomatic sources cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. However, in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio, Prime Minister Rashid Karami reaffirmed that Lebanon rejects UNIFIL's deployment north of the Al-Litani River, asserting that there is no justification for such a deployment. Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio broadcast Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that Lebanon's stand on UNIFIL is currently the major issue which will make or break the talks at Al-Naqurah.

In other developments concerning Israel and the south, the Lebanese Government protested to the United Nations over Israel's recent operation in southern villages while southerners themselves protested by staging a general strike, Beirut radio noted.

Security Plan — The Military Council will meet on 17 December to discuss and finalize the amended version of the security plan for the coastal road prior to submitting it to the Cabinet, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported. The radio, which broadcasts on behalf of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), spoke of a "positive atmosphere" over the security plan resulting from recent Lebanese-Syrian contacts including Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's 15 December meeting with PSP officials. Earlier, in a report on that meeting, Damascus radio said the PSP officials had informed Khaddam of their party's agreement to the security plan, which will be implemented "within the next few days." Nevertheless, the PSP continued to distance itself from the Lebanese Government, asserting in an official statement reported by Voice of the Mountain that "the regime's organs" were responsible for the 14 December assassination of a Druze army officer.

Israeli Coalition Crisis

Minister Without Portfolio Yitzhaq Peretz submitted his resignation at the 16 December Cabinet meeting, a move that sparked off a coalition crisis because of the Likud's pledge to support Peretz' SHAS group by leaving the government unless SHAS obtains a full Cabinet portfolio, Jerusalem radio reported. In remarks broadcast by IDF radio, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi reaffirmed the Likud's commitment to SHAS, adding that the Likud-Alignment partnership will be jeopardized if SHAS leaves the coalition. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir returned to Israel earlier than planned because of the crisis, the radio said, and if matters are not settled by 18 December, when Peretz' resignation takes effect, the Likud will leave the coalition. Nevertheless, SHAS has called on the Likud not to follow it out of the coalition, according to Jerusalem radio.

In another indication of differences in the coalition, Minister Without Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman stated in remarks reported by *THE JERUSALEM POST that it is "regrettable" that Foreign* Minister Shamir does not initiate more peace moves because Israel's relations with Egypt are more important than its relations with the Latin American countries that Shamir has just visited.

PLO/Palestine

The PLO Executive Committee delegated responsibilities while meeting in Tunis on 15 December, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Among other assignments, Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will be chairman of the Military Committee and Jamal al-Surani will be Executive Committee secretary. Vacant seats were left on the new 55-member PLO Central Council and on various PNC consultative committees, as well as on the Executive Committee itself, for the independent factions which could not participate in the 17th PNC session for "known reasons" so they may reconsider their stands, the radio noted.

In a separate development, a prominent Fatah military figure, Isma'il Darwish, was assassinated in Rome on 14 December by unidentified assailants, according to a PLO official cited by KUNA. A PLO statement issued in Tunis accused Israel's Mosad of the attack, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Meanwhile, concerning the issue of Palestine, Jordan's King Husayn stressed the need to amend UN Resoluton 242 when he met last week with the British prime minister and French president, Amman's *AL-RA'Y* disclosed. On the PLO side, 'Arafat

claimed in an interview cited by AL-HAWADITH that he would accept a two-part state with "incomplete sovereignty."

Murphy Talks in Egypt, Jordan

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak termed his 15 December talks with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy "beneficial" for determining what can be done for the Palestinian cause when he visits the United States in February, according to an interview broadcast on Cairo radio.

On 16 December, meeting with Murphy in Amman, Jordan's Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri reiterated the stand on the Palestinian issue presented by King Husayn at the 17th PNC session, Amman radio reported. For his part, Murphy briefed Al-Masri on the Al-Naqurah talks as well as his talks in Cairo, Damascus, and Tel Aviv, the radio added. Later, in a meeting with King Husayn, Murphy discussed bilateral relations as well as the results of U.S. contacts with Syria, Lebanon, and Israel, the radio noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt thwarted a Syrian-Iranian "plot" to have Egypt's presence at the meetings preceding the Islamic states' ministerial council in Sanaa declared illegal, Cairo radio reported, noting that instead the plot brought about a political demonstration of support for Egypt.

In a separate development, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, in a statement carried by TAP, expressed disappointment with the EC summit in Dublin for not affirming the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, for not strongly condemning Israel's settlements policy, and for stressing direct negotiations. Moreover, Klibi maintained that in addition to providing support for Lebanon, the EC countries can pressure Israel to accept the Security Council resolutions that would guarantee Lebanon's sovereignty.

Aftermath of Hijacking

Iran will try the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner, but it will not hand them over to anyone else unless it receives in return the "terrorists" who have hijacked Iranian aircraft to France, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani affirmed in a 14 December sermon reported by Tehran radio. Stressing that air security should apply either to all airlines or to none, he warned that although Iran has not yet considered it necessary to join the "affray," there are people who would embark on "such action" should it become necessary.

Meanwhile, in a 14 December report on the hijacking, Kuwait's *AL-QABAS cited a disclosure by "informed sources" in Wash*ington that the United States had sent a special unit called "Delta" to an Arab state neighboring Iran as a prelude to launching a commando attack to set the plane free. However, Syria learned of this and hastened to pressure Iran to end the hijacking and preempt the U.S. action, according to *AL-QABAS*.

North Africa

Libya — The U.S. State Department's allegation that Americans working in Libya are in danger is baseless, JANA declared, contending that the U.S. charge is motivated by the Reagan administration's official policy of hostility toward Libya. Meanwhile, in an AFP interview, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi warned French President Mitterrand against an American "trap" regarding the reported presence of Libyan troops in Chad. Al-Qadhdhafi suggested that a French-Libyan-Greek mission be set up, one that might also include Syrians, to inspect northern and southern Chad. However, the Chadian Government quickly rejected this initiative through its ambassador in Paris, Paris radio's international service reported.

Algeria — Soviet Deputy Defense Minister Admiral Sergey Gorshkov and his delegation left Algiers on 14 December at the end of an official cooperation visit, Algiers radio announced.

Mauritania — The new military rulers arrested deposed President Mohamed Ould Haydala and four of his top officials as they left their plane in Nouakchott after returning from the French-African summit, AFP reported. In a related development noted by MAP, Morocco's *RISALAT AL-UMMAH* attacked the visit by an Algerian Ministry of Defense official to Nouakchott right after the takeover, and claimed that the move was made to spread Algerian control and prevent a change in Mauritania's policy of allowing "mercenaries" on its soil.

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Babrak Karmal Chairs PDPA Politburo Session
LD160015 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] A regular session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held at the headquarters of the PDPA Central Committee. The session was chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council. The Politburo session discussed the results of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization conference on the new international information order, held in Kabul, and matters regarding the development of statistics in the DRA.

After hearing a report by Anahita Ratebzad, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairperson of the DRA Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organization, the PDPA Central Committee Politburo assessed as positive and useful the results of the conference on the greater solidarity between the peoples of Asia and Africa in the struggle against imperialism and the psychological war of the lie-spreading stations of imperialism; on reaching a new international information order; on the activities of the preparatory commission; and on the active participation of the DRA delegation in the conference.

The Politburo also assessed and expressed its approval of the activity of Anahita Ratebzad, who led the Afghan delegation and chaired the Kabul AAPSO conference on a new international information order from 29 Nov to 2 Dec 1984, both prior to and during the conference sessions, as constructive, organized, and useful.

The AAPSO conference was held in Kabul, the capital of revolutionary Afghanistan. It was attended by 42 delegations comprising scholars and social personalities from dozens of countries — a total of 75 foreign guests and 55 members of the Afghan delegation. The conference, which had great political importance, was opened with a speech by Babrak Karmal.

In the opening session of the conference, attended by more than 1,200 persons, Babrak Karmal spoke comprehensively on the role of a new international information order, on exchanging information on a worldwide basis, and on the methods of eliminating inequality in the flow of information at the international level, which at present is contrary to the interests of developing countries. In particular, he exposed the characteristics of information imperialism. In his speech, Babrak Karmal strongly denounced the hostile propaganda and systematic war of accusations and lies against the people and state of the DRA,which is organized and waged alongside the undeclared war by imperialist forces, especially U.S. imperialism. The Politburo fully approved Babrak Karmal's comprehensive and instructive speech and pointed out its importance to the work of the conference.

During 4 days of work and broad discussions, the conference approved 24 documents. All participating delegations condemned the hostile propaganda war waged by imperialism and its psychological and undeclared war against the DRA.

Issuing a message addressed to the people and Government of the DRA, the conference expressed its solidarity with the people of Afghanistan who stepped on the path of social transformation with the victory of the April revolution. Addressing the people of Afghanistan, the participants pledged to tell the realities of the Afghan revolution and society to the people of the world

At the Politburo session Babrak Karmal, in a comprehensive assessment, characterized as important the conference decisions on the unbreakable connection between the national independence of Asian and African countries and developing countries as a whole and a just information order at the international level. He also pointed out the special importance of cooperation and solidarity between developing and socialist countries in the field of information in the struggle against the domination of imperialist countries. This is because the socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union, give all-round assistance to developing countries in creating a just information system, providing access to modern technology, and training national cadres.

The Politburo also assessed Babrak Karmal's meeting with the participating delegates at the end of the conference as very useful. The Politburo noted that the broad and assertive speech by Babrak Karmal had a significant political influence on delegates participating in the conference.

The Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee also heard a report by the PDPA Central Committee delegation, led by Mir Saheb Karwal, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, which attended the 13th congress of the Romanian Communist Party. The Politburo approved the activity of the delegation.

The Politburo broadly and comprehensively discussed the situation in the country with regard to statistics and adopted measures for developing statistics and improving the recording, collection, processing, analysis, and publication of statistical information in the country. The session assessed the positive and weak aspects of work in this important area of the social and economic life of the country.

Stressing the importance of statistics and the broadening and strengthening of statistical reporting as an important tool to improve the planning and organization of the national economy, Babrak Karmal said: The issue of increasing [word indistinct] statistics in the country, enhancing the qualitative level of statistical reporting, improving the (?economic) activities of statistical organs for timely and objective assessment of the activities and growth of the economy and culture in the DRA for a realistic drafting of annual and 5-year plans for the country's socio-economic growth, is of great importance.

Babrak Karmal said: Ministries, departments, the central statistical office, local organs of state power, and administrative and party organs, ought to approach responsibly the issue of improving and expanding statistical affairs as a major state task.

Based on Babrak Karmal's guidance, specific measures were adopted to: improve the quality and methods of statistical reporting; strengthen and improve the effectiveness and activity of organizational affairs as well as the leadership of statistical offices and provide them with assistance; carry out studies and model surveys on work indices and the growth of the national economy.

The regular session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo also discussed a number of other issues pertaining to internal party life as well as internal and international affairs, and adopted the necessary decisions.

Defense Minister Addresses Jirga Meeting
LD161850 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Warm greetings and good wishes from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, were conveyed to the noble and working people of the Zazay, Ali Khayl, Hashem Khayl and [name indistinct] tribes of Paktia Province yesterday by Brigadier Nasar Muhammad, the minister of defense. The greetings were received with enthusiasm.

A BIA [BAKHTAR Information Agency] correspondent reports that the minister of defense and Brigadier Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and head of the Army's political affairs, yesterday took part in a tribal jirga of the elders, representatives, and youths of the aforementioned tribes. They spoke about the lofty humanitarian aims of the party and the shameless and hostile interference of imperialism in the internal affairs of free and independent revolutionary Afghanistan.

The minister of defense said: With the victory of the April national democratic revolution, the ruling power of despots and oppressors over our country ended, and our people were rescued from the harm of the parasitic minority. Fortunately, the April revolution has the backing of the broad masses. But the rulers of reaction and imperialism want to prevent progress and the building of a new and prosperous society in our country. I assure you that with your sincere cooperation the DRA Armed Forces will eliminate the counterrevolution in every form.

The BIA correspondent adds that Yasin Sadeqi also spoke at this tribal gathering, and said: The counterrevolutionary bands, whose actions are against the religion of Islam and against human dignity, are being sent to our homeland at the instigation and assistance of their imperialist masters. Together, we shall never allow these sold-out elements to act against our revolution and the interests of our people. The heroic Armed Forces of the DRA, together with the cooperation of its patriotic people, has always dealt shattering blows to these heretical forces.

This tribal meeting was also attended by the provincial party committee secretary and the state and party delegation of Paktia Province.

Mirza Khan Mohammad spoke on behalf of the tribes and gave assurances that to the end of their lives, they would defend the revolution, the territorial integrity of the country, and the interests of their people.

National Fatherland Front 5th Plenum Resolution
LD142206 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Resolution of the Fifth Plenum of the DRA National Fatherland Front [NFF] Central Council, dated Qows 1363 [December 1984]:

Regarding practical measures to expand the role of the DRA's NFF in the unity of the country's patriotic forces:

The plenum approved and confirmed the report of the executive board of the NFF Central Council which was read by the esteemed Saleh Mohammad Ziray, chairman of the NFF Central Council.

Continuous work has been carried out for the development and evolution of the DRA's NFF and its councils on the basis of the valuable instructions of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo. The councils' network has been expanded: During the period between the two plenums, 2 provincial councils, 17 district councils, 3 city councils, 1 ward council, 10 subdistrict councils, 289 village and hamlet councils, 477 residential councils — 808 councils in all — have increased their organizational structure. Plans have been worked out and implemented to further improve the work of the councils and create new council networks. Provincial councils were created in Ghazni and Lowgar Provinces. The work of 16 provincial councils has been assessed: They have played a role in forming tribal battalions, creating revolutionary defense groups, and introducing men to the Armed Forces.

Literacy courses have been organized. At this very moment, under the direct control of the NFF councils, more than 17,711 pupils in 650 literary courses, taught by 550 teachers, are learning to read and write.

The quality of the *ANIS* newspaper has been improved.

In a number of the provinces, commissions to regulate the activities of the ulema and patriotic clery have been created.

Books, propaganda, and posters have been printed for the information of compatriots. The NFF councils in their respective localities have been cooperating with party and government organs to normalize the situation in the region; consolidate peace nationwide; construct public welfare installations; restore and repair schools, mosques, hospitals and roads; sow seeds; increase production; and help in the medical, educational, and training services, thereby bringing prosperity to their respective regions. They have also organized voluntary work in various sectors and remitted more petitions, applications, and proposals from the workers, for solving their grievances, to the relevant authorities than were submitted in 1983.

The final budget for 1362 [beginning 21 March 1983] [as heard] has been settled and approved by the executive board of the NFF Central Council. NFF relations with the national and democratic fronts of friendly countries have, to certain extent, expanded, and a friendly and reciprocal cooperation protocol was concluded with the SRV's Fatherland Front.

The NFF Central Council publication has satisfactorily discharged its duty in introducing the NFF to other countries.

Despite this, there are noticeable shortcomings and defects in the work of the NFF councils to which reference has been made in the resolution of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, dated 5 Mezan 1363 [26 September 1984], in the course of assessing the activities of the NFF.

Provincial councils in Paktika and Vardak Provinces have not been formed. Similarly, in those localities where party organizations are present NFF councils have still not been formed. Some of the provincial and lower councils still do not carefully understand their role and duties: Their work and activities are weak; in the task of discharging the duties of the April revolution, no noticeable influence has been exerted.

Sometimes the work of the central councils, in particular their lower councils, has not been formulated on the basis of precise and regular plans. Control over the implementation of plans, on the basis of instructions and resolutions sent to the councils from the capital, is not satisfactory.

Not enough work has been done on training, selecting, and posting cadres; necessary attention has not been paid to the training [word indistinct] and presentation of cadres.

No preparations or measures have been taken to elect local organs of the state power and administration.

Required propaganda has not been carried out to attract people to the Armed Forces and to train the people in the spirit of serving the Armed Forces.

Work with the country's tribes, nationalities, and clans is at a low level, and has been carried out without advance preparation.

Necessary work has not been done to train people in the spirit of patriotism and unity. Work to expose the domestic and foreign enemies of the revolution is weak, particularly in countering hostile propaganda. Effective propaganda work to show off fraternal Afghan-Soviet friendship has not been carried out.

The results of the work of tribal peace assemblies have not been put together and the experience derived from them applied.

The work of the lower councils in dealing with the difficulties, complaints, proposals, and demands of the people is not satisfactory.

In addition, meetings for solving the current grievances of the people, their free and democratic gatherings, sessions, and talks, have been poorly organized.

Necessary measures to enhance the role of the NFF in the international arena, as a social and political organization, are weak. The documents archive and the nature of the work to implement their findings is at a low level. The financial and administrative work of the NFF councils has been weakly organized and, likewise, there are deficiencies in collecting membership fees.

Therefore, the Fifth Plenum of the DRA's NFF approves:

The executive board of the NFF Central Council and lower councils are to remove shortcomings and defects to which specific reference has been made in the resolution of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo dated 5 Mezan 1363, and in the light of the instructions of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and in view of the policy measures of the extraordinary session of the executive board of the NFF Central Council dated 4 'Aqrab 1363 [25 October].

The executive board of the NFF Central Council is to complete itswork in accordance with the plan for the formation of provincial councils in Paktika and Vardak Provinces and in a number of other regions where party organizations exist.

The executive board of the NFF Central Council is to prepare measures for the realization of the PDPA program of action regarding the organization of the masses, the transformation of the NFF into a powerful instrument, and enhancing the level of understanding duties, and then to remit these measures to all NFF councils.

The executive board of the NFF Central Council is to give thenecessary instructions to the NFF on the preparation and organization of the NFF councils' work plans and their application to other councils, raising the level of scrutiny, and securing serious control over the execution of these plans.

The executive board of the NFF Central Council is to pay constant attention to the training and selection of cadres, to assessing and analyzing the composition of the leadership cadres of the NFF councils, and to the participation and cooperation of the Social Science Institute of the PDPA Central Committee in the formation and improvement of the work to set up permanent courses for the training of cadres.

The executive board of the NFF Central Council is to formulate a plan of the preparatory work for the election of the local organs of the state power and administration and to organize its execution.

The executive board of the NFF Central Council is assigned the duty of taking practical measures to improve cooperation with the Armed Forces, to form self-defense and revolutionary defense groups, and to compile the results of their work and to share their positive experience among the councils.

The executive board of the NFF Central Council is assigned the duty of preparing the necessary instructions, and remitting them to all lower councils, to attract the cooperation of social figures, tribal chiefs, and other trustworthy people, to broaden relations and to strengthen the spirit of their patriotism and consolidate their unity and cohesion.

The executive board of the NFF Central Council is to take allnecessary and effective measures to publicize fraternal Afghan-Soviet friendship, expand and strengthen literacy courses, and improve propaganda to expose the conspiracies of domestic and foreign enemies as well as launch counter-propaganda against enemy propaganda.

The executive board of the NFF Central Council must take practical measures to broaden and activate the tribal peace assemblies and compile and share their experience.

The executive board of the NFF Central Council has the duty to improve work in the lower councils to solve the grievances, petitions, complaints, and viewpoints of workers and to pay attention to their free and democratic meetings, session, and talks.

In order to further develop and strengthen friendly relations between the NFF and similar national and democratic movements and social organizations in other countries, the executive board of the NFF Central Council should exploit the possibilities of establishing links and cooperation with the international relations department of the party and the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The executive board of the NFF Central Council must pay full attention to the qualitative improvement of documents in all NFF Councils and to implement the guidance of officials in this regard and further improve work (?in documents).

The executive board of the NFF Central Council must adopt allnecessary and effective measures to improve the administrative and accounting affairs of the Central Council and lower councils of the NFF, especially the collection of membership fees and contributions.

The executive board of the NFF Central Council is to adopt allnecessary measures to convene the second congress of the NFF of the DRA.

Government Operations in Laghman 'Successful'
LD161627 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] A BAKHTAR correspondent, quoting a source of the Laghman Province security forces, reports that as a result of successful operations recently carried out by heroic security forces in Qarghah'i District, Laghman Province, a number of criminals were crushed and several wounded.

The security forces seized 27 DSHK's, 2 ZK-1's, 2 mortars, 8 82mm guns, 4 recoilless guns, and 500 various types of weapons with 600,000 rounds of ammunition.

Karachi Reports Mujahidin Attack on Kabul Post
BK161722 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Afghan mujahidin in a sudden attack wiped out a security post north of Kabul on the 1st of this month. According to reports, the mujahidin killed a number of Soviet-Karmal soldiers in the operation, including the post commander, who is stated to be a near relative of the Kabul administration's interior minister, Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was also seized by the mujahidin.

Ershad Announces Elections for April

BK151518 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1301 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Address to the nation by Bangladesh President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Hussain Mohammad Ershad on 15 December, place not given — live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear countrymen, peace be upon you. I extend my greetings to you on the eve of 14th victory anniversary of the war of independence.

I know and believe that although there are differences of opinion on courses of action, we are equally interested in the peace, stability, and development of the country. I firmly believe that whether it is the question of consolidating the economic foundation or ensuring independence and sovereignty, none of them can be attained without the greater unity and understanding of the entire nation. Dear countrymen, I myself and my colleagues are trying wholeheartedly to establish this desired consensus. Our effort, God willing, will succeed.

My government and the patriotic Armed Forces desire total and greater national unity at all levels and want to establish a democratic administrative system by ending the martial law administration through peaceful means.

During the (?dialogue), the alliance leaders said that there should not be any administrative vacuum before the holding of elections. So there is no alternative other than taking steps for holding elections under the present conditions and at the moment under the [words indistinct] of martial law. I was never reluctant in the past, nor am at present, to take any step to create a conductive atmosphere for holding a free and fair election. We are firm and determined to hold free and fair elections as before. In this context, I would like to add that the elections will be held under complete supervision of the Election Commission.

Dear countrymen, reviewing the prevailing political atmosphere and the general situation, I have decided to hold the parliamentary elections during the first half of next April. The Election Commission will make final announcements and take steps in this regard.

In view of the relevant article of the suspended Constitution, to ensure free and fair elections of the Parliament, and to assist the political parties in coming to a consensus in this regard, I am announcing the following step today: I appeal for these steps to be considered as a whole.

As a step toward transition to democracy, the position and office of the district and subzonal martial law administrators will be lifted by 31 December, and zonal martial law administrator's positions and offices will be lifted by 31 January. Special martial law tribunals will be withdrawn on 31 December, and special martial law courts will be lifted on 15 January. The suspended Constitution will be revived fully after the convening of the newly elected Parliament, and martial law will be withdrawn.

Through partially reviving the suspended Constitution by 15 January, the fundamental rights and the writ ofjurisdiction of the high court division of the Supreme Court in several cases will be reestablished.

My government will have no member of any political party from the day the Election Commission announces the election program. And I believe that the Election Commission will be able to announce this election program by 15 January of next year. No minister,while holding the office of a minister, will contest the parliamentary elections.

Dear countrymen, I believe that this announcement will remove the atmosphere of confrontation and anxiety in public life over the election issue. A country like ours cannot afford to bear the curse of an atmosphere of conflict. I hope that following my announcement, the political parties will not adopt any program that hampers and disrupts the normal economic life and production process of this poor country. What is necessary today is to provide relief to our poverty-stricken people and to free them from concern and anxiety. I have worked with this objective in the past and will do so in future.

In conclusion, I would like to make a fervent call to everyone to forge national unity by forgetting the differences of opinion in the past, to uphold the national democratic values, and to create an atmospere of understanding and democracy by [words indistinct] crisis. Let us free the nation from the curse of anarchy and uncertainty. Let us ensure the transition to democracy from the martial law rule by peaceful means through holding free and fair elections. Let us unitedly protect and stabilize the independence and sovereignty of our beloved motherland at any cost. God will certainly be with us. May god by your custodian. Long live Bangladesh.

Ershad Assures Election Impartiality

BK161720 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] President Ershad has said the package formula given by him in his address to the nation last night is a demonstration of his earnest sincerity and untiring effort for peaceful transition to democracy. Addressing a gathering at Mirpur in Dhaka this morning, he said there should be no room for the slightest doubt about impartiality and fairness of the coming general elections. He expressed the hope that all concerned will rise to the occasion to prove their sincerity and responsibility to the nation.

On his return journey after placing wreaths at the Jatiya Smritisoudha [National Mausoleum], President Ershad was greeted near Mirpur by thousands of people. Responding to their gesture he made a brief stop there.

Delhi Cites Opposition Rejection

BK161613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] In Bangladesh, major opposition parties have rejected President Ershad's offer to hold parliamentary elections by April next year under martial law. The chief of the 15-party opposition alliance, Mrs Hasina Wajed, said that General Ershad has

bypassed opposition demands for an immediate withdrawal of martial law and conducting the elections under a neutral government. She said the opposition will go to polls only when soldiers return to barracks. Mrs Hasina Wajed said her alliance will continue its campaign against the government, including a 48-hour general strike next month.

The chief of the seven-party opposition alliance, Mrs Khaleda Zia, also criticized General Ershad for ignoring opposition demands and said the movement against the government is to continue.

Delhi Reports 60 Injured on Dhaka Campus

BK141639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] In Bangladesh, about 60 persons were injured when supporters and opponents of the country's martial law government clashed last night in the troubled Dhaka University campus.

According to police sources, the clasehs were followed by loud explosions when rival groups blasted hand bombs spreading panic in the area.

Ershad Adviser Leaves for Sanaa ICO Conference

BK150815 Dhaka BSS in English 0649 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Dhaka, Dec. 15 BSS — Bangladesh Foreign Adviser Humayun Rashid Choudhury left here last night for Jiddah enroute to Sanaa to attend the 15th Islamic foreign ministers conference beginning there on December 18.

The adviser will lead the Bangladesh delegation and preside over as the current chairman of the 5-day conference, which will be preceded by the two-day meeting of the senior officials of the ICO member countries. Last year the ICO members held the foreign ministers conference in Dhaka.

Irrigation Minister Leaves for Delhi Talks

BK150819 Dhaka BSS in English 0651 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Dhaka, Dec. 15, BSS — The Bangladesh Irrigation Minister Aminul Islam left here yesterday for New Delhi to discuss the signing of sharing the Ganges waters to which the country is entitled as the lower riparian.

Since May 31 last the country did not have the accord with India on sharing the Ganges waters. The earlier stipulation emphasises the need for permanent solution to the sharing and the minister was optimistic about the fresh agreement.

Gandhi on Sri Lanka's All-Party Conference

BK141608 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] The prime minister has said that the recent developments in Sri Lanka are not healthy. Addressing a public meeting at Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the people in India are extremely disturbed over the situation in the island. Developments in Sri Lanka are causing grave concern not only to the Tamils in the country but to everyone in India. He said Tamils of indian origin, particularly the stateless ones, are badly affected and a number of them are coming to India as refugees.

The prime minister said that India had time and again reiterated that only a political solution would end the problem. There should be no military solution. He said that he had seen photographs of innocent people being killed, some of them with their hands tied behind their backs. Mr Rajiv Gandhi expressed the hope that the all-party conference in Colombo would mark the beginning of the end of the ethnic problem.

Gandhi Comments on Punjab Problem, Tamils

BK161612 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the Punjab problem will be solved on a top-priority basis and the Assam issue tackled satisfactorily. In an interview to a Dubayy newspaper, he said Punjab is a challenge we must overcome soon. The prime minister expressed concern over the recent events in Sri Lanka, particularly the killing of Tamils. He hoped that an understanding will be reached at the all-party meeting. Mr Rajiv Gandhi replied to a wide range of questions on domestic, economic,and political issues. He said fresh intitiatives would be taken to solve the problem of economic backwardness and unemployment and create conditions for complete communal harmony.

Government 'Unhappy' Over Hameed Statement

BK141259 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Excerpt] India has expressed its unhappiness over the statement of the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Hameed, yesterday. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the government is studying Mr Hameed's statement. However, we are unhappy to note that the statement is tendentious and polemical in tone. Most of the arguments the Sri Lankan minister had made are not new but merely a rehash of the earlier statements.

The spokesman also regretted that totally extraneous matters had been brought into the discussion. He pointed out that escalation of violence in northern Sri Lanka has greatly worried the prime minister and the Government of India, and said violence in all forms anywhere is repugnant to us. India has repeatedly expressed its opposition to it and also deplored all loss of life. It is because of this that Mr Rajiv Gandhi reiterated his concern in the statement he had made a few days ago.

Meanwhile, the all-party conference on the ethnic issue is beginning in Colombo this evening. The Tamil United Liberation Front has announced its decision to participate in the conference.

Further on Government Statement

BK141409 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Excerpts] India has expressed its unhappiness over the statement of the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Hameed, yesterday. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that most of the arguments the Sri Lankan minister had made are not new but merely a rehash of earlier statements.

The spokesman said that the most unfortunate development had been the attacks on Indian fishermen. While India has observed restraint, the Sri Lankan Navy has resorted to firing. One innocent life has been lost. It is also a fact that this attempt to terrorize Indian fishermen has synchronized with renewed campaign against civilian population in the neighboring northern region of Sri Lanka. Large-scale arrests, harassments, and killings by the security forces have been reported. There have been specific increase in the attack against people of Indian origin who had settled in these parts.

The spokesman said that it is perversion of facts to suggest that Indian territory is being used for supporting operations against Sri Lanka. The spokesman expressed the hope that the all-party conference which is meeting today will be able to reach a satisfactory political settlement.

Coast Guard Deploys Ships To Protect Fishermen

BK160427 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Indian fishermen along the coastal areas of Ramanathapuram District in Tamil Nadu are to be provided protection. Disclosing this to newsmen, the district collector said in Madurai that Coast Guard ships are patrolling the area. The decision to deploy such vessels follows representation from fishermen on atrocities being committed by the Sri Lankan Navy on them. In a recent incident, a fisherman was shot dead and two others seriously injured off the coast of Rameswaram.

Akali Dal Urges U.S. Action on Sikh Leader

BK150647 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] The Shiromani Akali Dal, Mastare Tara Singh group, has urged the government to request the United States to take action against Mr G.S. Dhillon for his statements threatening political leaders in India. The Dal president told newsmen in New Delhi such inflammatory statements will only strain relations between communities in India. He said Sikhs in India are against the idea of Khalistan.

Joint Rivers Commission Begins Talks in New Delhi

BK150939 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] The Indo-Bangla Joint Rivers Commission has begun talks in New Delhi. The Bangladesh team is being represented by the minister for irrigation and water development, Air Vice Marshal K.M. Aminul Islam, while the minister for irrigation, Mr Jaffer Sherif, is leading the Indian side in the talks. The main thrust of the discussion is on maximizing the benefits from the common river systems of the two countreis. During the day-long deliberations, the two sides will try to evolve measures on flood control, early warning and forecasting of flood, and development of common rivers for mutual benefit. A new agreement for sharing the Ganges waters will be discussed as the tenure of the earlier one has expired. Augmentation of the flow of Ganges waters at Farakka will also figure in the talks.

Dhaka Meeting Set

BK160940 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] The 27th meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission, held in New Delhi yesterday, discussed the sharing of the dry season flows in the Ganga at Farakka between the two countries. It also discussed the question of augmentation of the dry season flows of the Ganga at Farakka, the sharing of the Tista waters, the problems of embankments, and utilizaton of waters of the common border rivers. The next meeting of the joint rivers commission will be held at an early date in Dhaka.

Lok Sabha Elections Reinstated in Constituencies

BK161000 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] The elections to the Lok Sabha from Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh and north Madras constituency in Tamil Nadu, which had been countermanded, will be held towards the end of next month.

The chief election commissioner, Mr R.K. Trivedi, told PTI that separate notification to this purpose will be issued later this month. Polling in Perambur and Egmore assembly constituencies in Tamil Nau, which were also countermanded, will be held at the same time, he added.

Ziaul Haq Speaks on Referendum, Islamization

BK141138 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said he has resorted to the Islamic and democratic method of referendum in order to elicit public opinion whether they are in favor of the continuance of the Islamic welfare measures taken by him during the past 7 and 1/2 years. He was addressing a representative gathering at Bagh-i-Jinnah in Karachi today. Reaffirming that he had no personal ambitions, the president said he only wanted to introduce the Islamic system in toto. The president told the cheering crowd that Pakistan was created in the name of Islam, for which the Muslims had made tremendous sacrifices. He paid rich tributes to the people for their sacrifices for the Nizam-I-Muztafa [Islamic system] in 1977.

Regretting that the past regimes had not taken any practical steps toward the introduction of an Islamic order, the president pointed out that it had fallen to the lot of his government to work for the implementation of the Islamic laws. Time has now come to ask the people whether they endorsed the Islamization policies and whether they wanted this process to continue. He was confident that the people would make the correct decision in the historic referendum.

The president declared that he would abide by the decision of the people at the referendum. He said an affirmative vote would enable him to lay the foundations of a truly Islamic welfare state and ensure Pakistan's stability and solidarity. The president gave the assurance that in a truly Islamic welfare state, all sections of society, including women, would have full rights, and they would be able to work shoulder-to-shoulder for the country's progress and prosperity.

In his address of welcome, the mayor of Karachi, Mr Abdus Sattar Afghani, assured the president that the people of the city would spare no sacrifice for the cause of Islam nor would they disappoint him at the referendum. They would give him the mandate for the total enforcement of the Islamic system in the country.

Peshawar Speech on Referendum

BK160729 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the tremendously enthusiastic support shown by the people for the 19 December referendum has greatly exceeded his expectations. He was talking to newsmen at the airport after arriving in Peshawar from Baluchistan yesterday. He said wherever he went the people showed enthusiastic interest in the coming referendum. The people gave overwhelming support for enforcing the Islamic system, continuing and consolidating various steps taken by the government during the last 7 and 1/2 years for the Islamization of society and for the cause of the ideology of Pakistan.

Answering a question, the president said no date has been set for the general elections in the country. He said that during his current tour of the country, he had only been saying that the general elections will be completed by 23 March next year. He said the federal cabinet and provincial governors will be meeting after the referendum to consider and outline an election program to be completed by 23 March 1985, as previously announced.

When asked whether the government was considering waiving the requirement that voters present identification cards before casting their ballots during the referendum, the president said no decision on this had so far been made. The whole question will be reconsidered before any decision is made. He added that as the referendum approaches, the people's support and enthusiasm is also increasing.

Reaffirms Stand on Afghanistan

BK160838 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that Pakistan will continue to adhere to its principled stand on Afghanistan and to strive for a political resolution of this issue. He was addressing a representative tribal meeting in Peshawar this morning. He expressed the hope that the Afghan issue will be settled according to recognized international principles and that the Afghan refugees will be able to return to their homes in honor and dignity.

Referring to the violation of Pakistan's frontiers and to air raids by the Kabul administration, he said Pakistan is strong and is capable of giving a befitting reply to these activities, but it had refrained from further vitiating the situation for the sake of peace because of the effect on the Afghan people, who are already facing the country's hardships. He commended the people of the frontier province, especially tribal and Baluch people, who are extending unfliching help and support to the Afghan refugees on humanitarian grounds. He expressed the hope that the Karmal administration's continuous violations will not affect their spirit and determination.

The president said he was aware that the tribal people have dismissed attempts to [word indistinct] them from the other side of the border. He said this and their spirit with which they are confronting the situation are guarantees of Pakistan's integrity and security.

Referring to the process of Islamization in the country, he said much more has to be done to enforce totally the Islamic system. He said tribal people, who are genuine Muslims and Pakistanis, made exemplary sacrifices for the creation of Pakistan and he hoped that they will play a major role in the movement for the stability of Pakistan for which a referendum is being held on the 19th of this month. About socio-economic development of the tribal areas, he said we are making efforts to speed up development in these areas.

Delhi: Lawyers Call for Referendum Boycott

BK130344 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] In Pakistan, eminent lawyers have called for a boycott [?to end] the controversial referendum on Islamization to be held next

Wednesday. In a resolution, the Karachi Bar Association described it as an unholy conspiracy against democratic institutions, the constitution, the people, and Islam itself. In another development, the military regime has imposed restrictions on travel of opposition leaders.

Religious Party Supports Referendum Boycott
BK160430 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0?40 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] In Pakistan, Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan, a religious party, has supported the opposition call to boycott the referendum scheduled to be held on Wednesday [19 December]. It has decided to issue a decree describing the referendum as un-Islamic.

Delhi: Troops Deployed in Karachi for Referendum
BK170356 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0245 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] In Pakistan, more than 100 political activists have gone underground following the arrest of 10 people. The government has outlawed all canvessing against the referendum to be held on Wednesday. About 20 youths were also taken into custody for tearing of poll referendum papers. Troops have been deployed in Karachi to ensure peace during the controversial referendum. In the referendum, President Zia is seeking endorsement of his Islamization policy and his own election for another 5-year term.

The 12-party opposition alliance, the Movement for Restoration of Democracy, has said that they would boycott the referendum, describing it as un-Islamic.

Spokesman on Indian Allegations On Sikhs
BK151555 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Pakistan has expressed great disappointment at the Indian attitude of leveling baseless allegations against Pakistan in connection with the visit by Sikh pilgrims to Pakistan last month. An official spokesman said in Islamabad today that more than 2,000 Sikh pilgrims had participated peacefully and solemnly in the birthday celebrations of Guru Nanak in Pakistan. Only a minor incident took place on the occasion involving 1 non-Sikh liaison officer out of the 28 liaison officers. These liaison officers had been sent by the Indian Government with the Indian Sikh pilgrims.

The spokesman said in light of the situation created by the Indian military action in Amritsar, the Pakistani Government took some precautionary measures and only about 90 Sikh pilgrims came to Pakistan from Western countries.

The spokesman said that Pakistan received a letter from India on the 9th of this month in which the Indian foreign secretary alleged that Pakistan had provided a pistol to the hijackers of the Indian plane in August. The spokesman said the allegation is not only wrong but, we believe, is a wanton attempt to malign Pakistan.

The spokesman said it is regrettable that India has engaged in (?misstatements) and false propaganda on the pretext of a minor incident. The spokesman added that this will accomplish nothing except vitiating the atmosphere surrounding bilateral relations.

107 Killed in Afghan Air Raids in 1984
BK160753 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
16 Dec 84

[Text] Up to 11 December, the Karmal regime's air force violated Pakistan's airspace 61 times this year . These violations resulted in the deaths of 107 persons and injury to 90. Similarly, the Karmal regime violated Pakistan's territory 19 times, resulting in the death of 7 and injury to 20 persons.

SRI LANKA

President Outlines Proposals on Ethnic Issue

BK141637 Colombo Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] The all-party conference met in plenary session under the chairmanship of President J.R. Jayewardene at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall in Colombo this evening. The president said that the draft legislation of the proposals to solve the ethnic problem represented the views of the majority of the delegations.

Outlining the main recommendations, Mr Jayewardene said that the most important among them was the system for government that would create a form of participatory democracy involving the people from the village to the supreme legislature, the parliament of the united Sri Lanka. This would comprise Gramodaya Mandalas [village councils], Pradeshik Sabhas [regional bodies], district council, provincial council or interdistrict authorities, provincial and district ministers, and a council of states. There will be around 4,500 Gramodaya Mandalas chosen from people's voluntary societies in the village. The Pradeshik Sabhas will be at the level of the assistant government agent divisions as presently constituted and numbering around 250. They will be elected. Their functions will be mainly local government. The third tier will consist of district councils like the presently constituted development councils. The area of authority of a district council will be an administrative district. There will be 25 district councils. They, too, will be elected. The powers and functions of the district councils will be larger and wider than those exercised by a (? provincial) council at present.

Provincial councils will be constituted for two or more districts in a province where the district councils resolve to come together. However, this decision will need the approval of the majority of the registered voters in each of these administrative districts. Provincial councils will have such powers as are delegated to them by the district councils. They will consist of all the members of the district councils resolving to join. The president will have the power to appoint members of parliament or members of the council of states, provincial ministers or district ministers. He may appoint a provisional chief minister who is likely to command the confidence of a provincial council.

The council of states will consist of 75 members. Fifty of these members will be the chairman and vice chairman of each district council. There will also be 18 members who will represent those communities which are not represented or inadequately represented in the district councils established in a particular province. Two members will be appointed from each province. In addition, there will be seven members appointed by the president. The functions of the council of states will be mainly advisory.

The groups that attended today's session were the United National Party, government delegates, the Tamil United Liberation Front, the Lanka Sama Samaja Party, the Ceylon Workers Congress, Democratic Workers Congress, the All-Ceylon Muslim League, the Council of Muslims of Sri Lanka, Sinhala Association, Hindu Organization, Christian Organization, and the Illankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi.

A communique issued after the all-party conference said that the conference will not meet tomorrow as scheduled. Instead, it will meet again at 1000 on Friday, the 21st of December. Statements and documentations presented today will be discussed by the delegations at this meeting.

Jayewardene, Premadasa Discuss Ethnic Proposals

BK151124 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] The proposals of the all-party conference, which will ensure the unity and sovereignty of the country, have now been put forward. The Tamil United Liberation Front has yet to accept the proposals. President J.R. Jayewardene, who made the statement today, said that he and others who had participated in the all-party conference had accepted the proposals. The president was speaking at the 30th annual convention of the United National Party at the Sugathadasa stadium this morning.

Speaking further, Mr Jayewardene said that the all-party conference had rejected a proposal by the TULF calling for the unification of the northern and eastern provinces. He said that the delegations representing the Sinhalese and the Muslims had opposed this suggestion. Another demand of the TULF had been the adoption of a system of government similar to that in India, where the states have more power. This too had been rejected. President Jayewardene said that in India there is a federal system of government. In a state like Tamil Nadu, the chief minister is appointed by the state assembly. However, the ministers of the provincial councils proposed by the all-party conference would be appointed by the president. It was the president who also had the power to dismiss these ministers. President Jayewardene added that the representatives of the Gramodaya Mandalas [village councils], the Pradeshik Mandalas [regional bodies], district councils, and provincial councils will be elected according to the proportional representative system or on an electorate basis.

The prime minister, R. Premadasa, said that since 1977, the UNP had taken several measures to grant the rights of the Tamil-speaking people. Referring to the all-party conference proposals, he said that they were of such great importance to the nation that the president had expressed his readiness to even place them before the people at a referendum, and if necessary, to hold a general election to ascertain the views of the people. He added that we must attach great importance to the preservation of the stability of our country at a time when the fate of the country is going to be decided for all times.

Indian Policy Criticized

BK151339 Colombo Domestic Service in English
1245 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Excerpts] President Jayewardene said today that no harm would be caused to the Sinhala community from the proposals presented to the all-party conference to solve the ethnic problem.

Addressing the 30th annual convention of the United National Party at the Sugathadasa indoor stadium, the president said that once these proposals were implemented the majority and minority communities could live in a united Sri Lanka.

Speaking further, the president said that the proposals will be put forward before the cabinet and the Parliament. If these are approved in Parliament they would be made laws. There may be a necessity to hold a referendum if the judiciary decides to do so. It is the Parliament that should decide whether an election or a referendum should be held on these proposals. However, he said, he would vow his members of Parliament to take a decision after carefully considering these proposals. Today we have a democratic government. Therefore, the president pointed out, everybody had complete freedom to express their views.

Referring to certain statements made by Tamil United Liberation Front leaders, Mr Jayewardene stated that they had made it clear that they would drop the demand for a separate state if an acceptable solution was found to the problem. They had said that they were prepared to accept Sinhala as the state language. They had also agreed to accept the national flag and the national anthem. He said that after July 1983 the entire world thought that the Sinhala people were trying to destroy the Tamil community. But fortunately this concept has now changed. The countries such as the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, Japan, South Korea, and Australia were prepared to help Sri Lanka in the battle against terrorism. India, the president emphasized, was not assisting us.

Mr Jayewardene pointed out that Sri Lanka would have to impress on the leaders who emerge after the Indian general elections that his aim was not to suppress the minority Tamil community.

Prime Minister R. Premadasa said that he wished to focus the attention of not only the people of Sri Lanka but every countryin the world that India is obstructing in finding a solution to the ethnic problem in the country. If India was keen to see this problem solved peacefully through dialogue and through discussions, he requested that country not to meddle in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. He was certain that the entire country would endorse his statement. Even if he forgets the earlier statements made by India, the recent statement by the new Indian prime minister is in itself sufficient evidence to understand the attitude of India toward Sri Lanka. He aksed why on earth should a neighbor interfere with the internal affairs of our country — affairs that have arisen among our own brothers and sisters. Their reason for interference is that there is a group of people of Indian origin living in this country. Mr Premadasa said that if India felt for the people of Indian origin, who were noncitizens, they should get them back without interfering in our internal affairs.

Why does India allow dissenting groups to attack us from the training camps there? He asked whether this was good neighborliness. Even at this late stage, Mr Premadasa said that India should allow us to resolve our internal problems. Shelter should not be given to those traitors who attack their motherland. He requested India to expel them from their soil.

The prime minister pointed out that even the so-called peace-loving Tamil leaders (?rush) to India to condemn Sri Lanka. They ridicule us and make treacherous statements from India. They even make statements and commit acts that provoke the people of this country. Under such circumstances, the people will entertain doubts about any solution that is put forward. Mr Premadasa further said that the greatest obstacle to the realization of the objectives of the all-party conference is the interference of India and the protection she gives to the terrorists.

India also has the problem of terrorism. We do not give refuge to those terrorist and encourage them in Sri Lanka. Even when India took action to deal with their terrorists or even when they shot them, we did not issue statements from this end. He said Sri Lanka did not do so because it had no right to do such things. We do not like to meddle in Indian affairs. This is the attitude we adopt toward India. But Mr Premadasa emphasized that Sri Lanka was compelled to state that India was not fair (?toward) Sri Lanka in the same way.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Friday Sermon on Hijacking
LD141539 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Excerpts] On the eve of the martyrdom of the fighting clergyman, Dr Mohammad Mofatteh, and the day of the unity of the religious community and the university, millions of our Muslim people in most cities and areas of the Islamic homeland today observed the unifying Friday prayers ceremonies. The vast mass of Tehran's prayer congregation, as on previous Fridays, met in Tehran University and observed the awesome Friday prayers ceremonies under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his second Friday prayers sermon, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to the anniversary of the martyrdom of the martyr of the mihrab, Ayatollah Dastgheyb, the martyrdom of Dr Mohammad Mofatteh, and the week of the unity of the religious community and the university, expressed the hope that by bringing about full solidarity between the seminarists and the university students, one of Islam's most solid columns would be established.

The imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, referring to the remarks of the imam of the Islamic nation with regard to working out the destiny of the war, added: The imam has once again said the final word with regard to the war and made it clear that the war would not end until all the roots of corruption are destroyed; we all know that the first root of corruption is the Ba'th Party of Iraq.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, expounding the course of events with regard to the hijacked Kuwaiti aircraft and the manner in which that adventure ended, said: Various explanations have been given about this aircraft hijacking, but one of these which I personally do not believe is that it is coupled with a U.S. adventure. Those who allege this line of reasoning produce some evidence to support their claim to the effect that with the said incident of the leakage of poison gas from a U.S. factory in India, culminating in the killing, blinding and injuring of a countless number of the inhabitants of Bhopal, 80 percent of whom are Muslims, and with the possibility of serious danger for the future generations in that region, a crime had taken place having political dangers for Reagan in the same magnitude as the Tabas incident was for Carter. In India the news of the incident was censored, and that in itself raises a great many questions, but, reportedly, the United States needed to cover up the report and found this in Tehran — the center of the world's attention. Another line of reasoning says that Reagan personally wrote to the amir of Kuwait encouraging him to stand firm in this connection. But what was Iran's role in this adventure? Right from the beginning we announced that with a single military assault — which of course was not without danger — we could put an end to that course of events, but Kuwait did not agree, and we, too, would not endanger our young men for the sake of the United States, toward which our hostile stance is ever obvious, particularly when the responsibility for the outcome of such action would be ours.

Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: That adventure was finally resolved thanks to our own courageous action, and Kuwait, instead of being grateful to us for concluding the incident with the utmost calm and without magnifying the adventure, now says: Why do we not hand over the aircraft hijackers; why do we not put them on trial! I do not know what yardstick these people adopt when they speak in this manner! I maintain that our judicial apparatus is so powerful that the Majlis, too, cannot ask it for any explanations. Under no circumstances is it like your judicial machinery, whereby during ludicrous trials of hijackers of our aircraft anything said against us was permitted. We will not only put these people on trial, but we will turn the court into one for trying you yourselves. If your other yardstick is fighting terrorism I must say that we accept that, but it should not be one-sided, but rather you too should accept that and act accordingly! If you want the aircraft hijack terrorists from us — everyone knows that France is the base of terrorism — then you, too, should hand over to us the fugitive, aircraft-hijack terrorists who are currently living in France!

Continuing his second sermon, Hashemi-Rafsanjani added:

[Begin recording] What problem faces these people? If it is an international problem, of international standards, then this cannot be one-sided; it is two-sided. If you hand the people over, we will do the same. The trial you arranged for the hijackers of our aircraft was a trial of Iran's Islamic Revolution whereby any rogue said whatever he wanted to say against us without anyone saying aything on our behalf in that court! Well, we too will have a trial. One thing they said was that they have not tried the French [as heard] aircraft hijackers. But we will try the hijackers, and when we put them on trial we could put on trial all the crimes perpetrated here, and the correspondents would hear it from them. But that trial would not be a trial. We are not prepared to turn our courts into jokes against ourselves. We are not prepared to act in such a manner. If we act it will be a real trial. You should put hypocrisy aside! If we wished to use hypocrisy, we would be like them. There would have been no need for a revolution in the first place.

However, if it is a question of fighting international terrorism, we have done more than you. Why? We believe that these people are telling lies. They merely wish to drag out the issue in order that the problems of India should not become too big and should become old news. In India, the Indian people are still in mourning; people are blinded; the ground on which the Hindus were cremated is still hot; the ashes of the Hindus can still be seen; the mourners are still mourning on the graves of the recently buried Muslims; 800,000 people are still afflicted with misfortune. The hospitals are still full, so these problems must subside. But even if this disaster were to end, they would find something else. This is their policy. They used everything they had at their disposal. It is strange.

Either there should be air security for all airlines — and we would join efforts in this — or there will be no security for airlines of those countries which are the subject of your hatred; and there will be absolutely no security for you! [loud applause]

We ourselves have not yet deemed it necessary to join the affray, but should it become necessary there are peoples in the world who would embark on such action. However, if it became necessary for us to take part then we would do so and enter the arena. We are not complaining; once it is war or a quarrel and we are

involved then we would not be stinting. We would continue to struggle against the United States, but diplomatic talk about international regulations and such things — if it were a question of talking — then we too know how to talk, for our business is basically talking. Most of us are the same. But if it becomes a matter of action then you should act correctly, as we too would act. [end recording]

Majlis Speaker Meets With Khomeyni

LD151429 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] The Majlis speaker and the Imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, this morning was received by Imam Khomeyni, the Islamic Revolution leader and commander in chief, and conferrred with the imam of ummah.

Tehran Arabic Says U.S. Plotting Against Iran

GF141248 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] It is clear from the pronouncements and actions of the White House leaders that an aggressive scheme against the Islamic revolution is about to be carried out. The announcements of U.S. Administration officials all point to these scheming intentions and prove the aggressive aims that the White House administration will choose in order to confront international terrorism, as put forth by the U.S. secretary of state.

George Shultz' meeting with his NATO counterparts proves the joint coordination within NATO countries to execute an aggressive plot against the Islamic Republic. George Shultz did not hide the evil intentions he was carrying to Europe when he announced that the time had come to fight terrorism, and that the friends of the United States in Europe encourage it to take the necessary measures to uproot terrorism.

George Shultz made this statement while talking about the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane, which resulted in the deaths of two Americans. If we compare these statements with those of White House spokesman Larry Speakes, in which he accused the Islamic Republic of improperly handling the Kuwaiti plane incident and of being a refuge for terrorists, then the aims being plotted by the White House leaders become clear.

The object of these leaders' threats is the Islamic revolution and the Muslim people of Iran. This proves to us [break in transmission] which we made a while ago, and hours after U.S. President Ronald Reagan was reelected. We pointed out that the first step Ronald Reagan would make would be to carry out the statements he made during his first term of office and which were awaiting implementation. Several things had prevented their implementation, chief among which were the U.S. elections and Ronald Reagan's fear of the effect of any reaction on the course of the elections which — as is known — were in his favor.

Today, with Reagan freed from the pressures of elections and having a free hand to deal with what he calls terrorism, and with all circumstances suitable for him to fulfill the dreams of his first term as President, he has nothing left to do except to come to an agreement with his NATO allies to put the scheme into practice. The Islamic Republic and Islamic liberation movements will openly be the principal target for their assault plan.

The U.S. Administration is attempting to justify the implementation of the first stage of aggression. To this end, it has used the Kuwaiti plane incident and has begun to make flimsy charges accusing the Islamic Republic of not taking sufficient action to end the crisis early, although the Islamic Republic did all it could to end the plane crisis right from the beginning. Without such efforts the fate of the other hostages would have been similar to that of the two Americans who were killed on the plane.

It is clear to everyone that the exploitation of the plane incident, days after its end, is proof that Washington wants to provide a favorable climate to carry out its scheme of aggression against the Islamic Republic. These accusations are but an open incitation against the Islamic revolution, and an attempt to persuade world public opinion. [passage indistinct]

These clear signs are enough to throw light on the nature of the stand of international arrogance on the war and the Islamic Republic, particularly the U.S. position which has varied interests in the Middle East.

The forces of international arrogance have imagined that they will surprise the Islamic Republic by their open aggression, believing that their move will remain unobserved by the Muslim masses. It has not occurred to them that the Islamic Republic is a power that watches every move of international arrogance in the region and prepares for every eventuality, and will prepare an equally strong response to every aggression.

Muslims To Confront U.S. Marines in Al-Biqa'

LD171247 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Review of headlines from *KEYHAN* newspaper]

[Text] Five hundred U.S. Marines have secretly arrived in Beirut to carry out reprisal operations against Muslim Lebanese revolutionaries. The Muslim revolutionaries in the Al-Biqa' Valley have gone on full alert in order to confront possible attacks by U.S. Marines.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Israeli Raids

LD151203 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Foreign Ministry Statement on Israeli Raids in southern Lebanon]

[Text] Following a series of negotiations aimed at bringing security for its forces in Lebanon — the forces that are facing serious danger as a result of Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries' selfless

operations, particularly those in the southern region — theJerusalem occupying regime failed to achieve any concessions and is now attempting to silence the Lebanese people by showing its teeth and claws, thus realizing its objectives in Lebanon. In line with this policy, thousands of the Jerusalem occupying regime's forces, on Thursday, in cooperation with army of south Lebanon mercenaries, a number of tanks, military vehicles, and helicopters, have surrounded and cut off communication lines, and launched a brutal attack on the Muslim inhabited villages of south Lebanon. They subsequently opened ground and air fire upon the innocent inhabitants. As a result of this raid, a number of children and civilians were martyred and wounded; many more were also arrested.

The dimensions of this crime were so extensive that the Zionists even prevented the transfer of the wounded to hospitals. This crime takes place at a time when the Zionist regime, through a message sent to Lebanon and Syria via the U.S. special envoy in the region, threatened to resort to inconceivable actions should the negotiations fail to reach any results. This shows that the regime's policies are coordinated with those of U.S. imperialism with regard to all the events and crimes committed in the region.

Considering the nature of the Jerusalem occupying regime and noting the resistance offered by the Muslim Lebanese people, the Islamic Republic Foreign Ministry, addressing itself to the southern Muslims and particularly [word indistinct], states that victory over the Zionists through direct confrontation is possible. The liberation of Lebanon from the claws of occupiers can only be achieved through Islamic unity and reliance upon divine faith rather than behind a negotiating table, for the diplomacy the Zionists pursue is subject to their militarism. Consequently, there is no alternative to the language of force in responding to them.

Joint Staff Communiques Report on Battles

Communique No 1941

LD141610 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA — Four Iraqi soldiers were killed in the northwestern fronts of Piranshahr, Sardasht and Marivan during clashes on Thursday, the Joint Staff communique said.

Some enemy weaponry and personnel positions were also set ablaze in the same region, it said.

In the western fronts, Communique No. 1941 said the Islamic forces destroyed two heavy vehicles and smashed a number of enemy positions.

Enemy losses in the southern fronts were the destruction of several light and heavy weaponry positions, two observation posts and a number of vehicles along with several casualties.

The heaviest exchanges of fire in the southern fronts were in the Talaiyeh, Husseiniyeh and Sharhani areas, the communique added. In the Arvand River area, the Islamic forces inflicted more losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces while stopping their logistical activities.

The Iraqi forces continued to shell Abadan on Thursday, demolishing two homes and a school.

Communique No 1942

LD151511 Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA — Iraqi aerial reconnaissance and aggressions of Islamic Republic airspace over a number of operational fronts and border towns were thwarted by anti-aircraft fire and the tactical maneuvers of the Iranian Air Force planes during the past 24 hours, the Joint Staff reported.

In Communique No. 1942 released on Saturday, the Joint Staff said 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in the western and northwestern fronts and two of their group bunkers were set ablaze.

In the southern fronts, the Islamic forces retained their total control of battle regions, it said.

Abadan came under Iraqi mortar fire Friday during which two homes and a shop were damaged and fire broke in one part of the city.

Communique No 1943

LD161507 Tehran IRNA in English 1458 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA — The Islamic Forces of Iran continued to defend and fortify their positions in fire exchanges with the Iraqi forces in the western and northwestern fronts during the past 24 hours.

Joint Staff communique No. 1943 issued Sunday said sections of enemy positions were destroyed in the southern fronts where the fire exchanges were fiercest in the Kushk and Zobaidat [name as received] areas.

More enemy losses and casualties were inflicted in clashes across the Arvand River, it said.

Two homes were damaged in Abadan Saturday by Iraqi fire, it added.

Government Reported in Control of Kordestan

LD151733 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Pr., Dec. 15, IRNA — Anti-revolutionaries in Kordistan Province have suffered heavy losses this year, while government forces have established themselves throughout the area, said the commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in Kordistan.

He said the IRGC has liberated 84 villages through military operations and has killed 412 anti-revolutionaries, while establishing one hundred bases in different parts of the province in the first six months of the current Iranian year (beginning March 84).

A group of 600 collaborators with the anti-revolutinaries, have surrendered themselves to government forces, the IRGC chief said.

"The anti-revolutionary groups have become so pessimistic that in their last congress they confessed to the failure of their military strategy and called for a new plan," he said.

According to the IRGC commander the anti-Islamic revolutionary rebels have lost their bases in towns, villages, border areas and most important, their previously-vaunted support of the people.

The corps chief said the anti-state rebels held their first congress, six years ago, in the Iranian town of Sardasht, while their third congress was recently held in a village across the border.

He said families of the anti-revolutionaries are under no threat of harassment, and can live freely in Iran and have no need to go abroad.

The commander vowed to continue the battle until the complete annihilation of the counterrevolutionary forces.

Defense Coordination Headquarters To Be Set Up
LD161258 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] A Cabinet session, chaired by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, was held yesterday. Current developments in the country and the region were first discussed, and then Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi, commander of the ground forces; and Rowhani, head of the Majlis Defense Commission briefed the Cabinet on the situation at the war fronts. After debates and exchanges of views on the need for long-term planning concerning the country's defense, it was decided that a headquarters be formed to coordinate defense and military matters.

UN Enquiry Commission Visit Conditional
LD161918 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Washington, Dec. 16, IRNA — Iran has agreed to a visit to Tehran by a UN enquiry commission in early January on certain conditions.

The commission must go to Baghdad first and file a realistic report of the status of Iranian prisoners of war in Iraq as well as some 20,000 Iranians who have been listed as "missing and unheard of" since the outbreak of the Iraqi imposed war.

In its visit to Tehran the commission is to file a similar report on the condition of Iraqi POW's in Iran. Iran has insisted over the past two years that a UN probe team should first investigate the fate of Iranian POW's in Iraq before visiting the Iraqi POW's in Iran.

The Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, has repeatedly charged that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has abandoned its principle of impartiality in relation with the Iraq-Iran war thereby grossly ruining its international prestige.

Velayati has said Iran presented the ICRC with a list of the missing Iranians a long time ago, but that its officials have brushed off Iran's request without any explanation.

Bulgarian Foreign Trade Official Arrives
LD141914 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA — The Bulgarian deputy foreign trade minister, Spas Georgiev, arrived here today heading an 8-man commercial and economic delegation. He was welcomed at the airport by his Iranian counterpart, Khosrow Taj, and several officials of the Commerce Ministry.

The delegation is to investigate and prepare programs for commercial exchanges between the two countries to be discussed at the annual meeting of the Iran-Bulgaria commission for the expansion of commercial, industrial and agricultural cooperation. The meeting is to be held next February.

Khosrow Taj said Bulgaria cooperates with Iran in transportation as well as agricultural and industrial fields. The trip is aimed at exploring new avenues for expansion of relations.

The volume of commercial exchanges between Iran and Bulgaria amounted to about 400 million dollars during the current year.

Talks Begin
LD151925 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA — Bulgaria's deputy minister for foreign trade, Spas Georgiev, met Saturday here with Minister of Commerce Hasan Abedi Ja'fari and discussed issues of mutual interest.

Georgiev is heading a Bulgarian trade delegation which arrived in Tehran Friday to prepare for the coming annual meeting of the joint trade commission which determines commercial ties between the two countries.

Bulgaria imported 10 million dollars of non-oil commodities from Iran in the current year and according to the Bulgarian official his country will be importing more in 1985.

The Iranian minister said trade between the two countries was satisfactory and there is no reason why it should not expand in the future.

Georgiev urged Iran to participate in the coming trade fair in Bulgaria and to present its carpets there. He also invited Ja'fari to attend the fair next spring.

Iran imports cigarettes, foodstuff, chemicals and electronic equipment from Bulgaria.

ROK Commerce Official Arrives on Visit
LD160814 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA — The deputy commerce minister of the Republic of Korea, (Chol Su-kim), arrived here Sunday at the head of an economic and trade delegation and was welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport by deputy commerce minister for external trade, Mojtaba Khosrow Taj.

During its five-day stay in Iran, the Korean delegation will discuss expansion of bilateral commercial and economic relations with officials of the Ministries of Commerce, Oil, Foreign Affairs, Industries, Agriculture, and Roads and Transportation as well as Plan and Budget Organisation.

The volume of trade between Iran and the Republic of Korea stood at the level of 500 million dollars per year for pre-revolution era which amounted to 1.5 billion dollars annually after the revolution.

Of the figure, Iran exports 900 million dollars worth of crude oil and non-oil goods to Korea and imports 600 million dollars worth of Korean products.